

**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD**  
**HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
**ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026, AT 9:30 A.M.**

**Present: Chair Destiny Castro, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez**

- 1. Call to Order.**
- 2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.**

Two unidentified members of the public appeared on the public teleconference phone line but did not respond to the opportunity to address the Claims Board. No member of the public appeared in person.

- 3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).**

- a. Kalante Kiko Holmes, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CMCV01450**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Health Services employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(a) in the amount of \$29,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. Julie Jaleh Sabaierad v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV00997**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Health employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(b) in the amount of \$125,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Documents](#)

c. **Alexxa Cardoza, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24PSCV00583**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving an employee of the Chief Executive Office.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(c) in the amount of \$85,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. **Maria Escobedo Preciado, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24CHCV02751**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Parks and Recreation employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(d) in the amount of \$38,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Document](#)

e. **Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment v. County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25STCP00169**

This writ action alleges that the Department of Public Works failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(e) in the amount of \$97,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Document](#)

*[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]*

f. **Monique Alvarez, et al. v. Prologis, Inc., et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV38929**

This lawsuit alleges that Plaintiffs suffered personal injuries and property damage as a result of toxic chemicals and noxious odors from the Dominguez Channel.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(f) in the amount of \$6,000,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Document](#)

g. **Sholeh Ansari v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV28816**

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Department of Public Works was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(g) in the amount of \$99,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

h. **The Estate of "CMW", et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-00889**

This wrongful death lawsuit against the Department of Children and Family Services arises out of the death of a two-month-old while in foster care.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(h) in the amount of \$500,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

[See Supporting Documents](#)

*[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]*

i. **George De La O v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24PSCV02573**

This lawsuit involves allegations that an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(i) in the amount of \$35,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

j. **Robert Francis Coyle v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV27463**

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the Sheriff's Department was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(j) in the amount of \$260,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez and Destiny Castro  
Noes: Adrienne M. Byers

k. **Art Hernandez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV33158**

This lawsuit claims that current and former deputies from the Sheriff's Department were harassed and discriminated against by other former deputies who were allegedly members of the Banditos gang.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board continued Item 3(k) to a future meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

l. **Judith Greenberg v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV11452**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Public Defender's Office was subjected to discrimination based on a disability.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 3(l) in the amount of \$75,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**m. David Smith v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV35717**

This lawsuit alleges that the Department of Medical Examiner failed to engage in the interactive process and failed to accommodate an employee with a disability.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 3(m) in the amount of \$675,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the January 5, 2026, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the January 5, 2026, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro and Oscar Valdez  
Abstention: Adrienne M. Byers

**[See Supporting Document](#)**

**5. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.**

No such matters were discussed.

**6. Adjournment.**

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CASE NAME                   | Kalante Kiko Holmes, et al. vs County of Los Angeles, et al.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| CASE NUMBER                 | 23CMCV01450                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| COURT                       | Los Angeles Superior Court                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| DATE FILED                  | September 7, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT           | Health Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT  | \$ 29,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF      | JEFF A. MANN, ESQ.<br>Law Office of Jeff A. Mann                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY     | LATASHA N. CORRY, ESQ.<br>Deputy County Counsel                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| NATURE OF CASE              | <p>This lawsuit arises from an automobile accident that occurred on October 23, 2022. Plaintiffs allege they were injured and filed a lawsuit.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p> |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 13,343                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE         | \$ 5,815                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CASE NAME                   | Julie Jaleh Sabaierad vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| CASE NUMBER                 | 23STCV00997                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| COURT                       | Los Angeles Superior Court                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DATE FILED                  | January 17, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT           | Department of Public Health                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT  | \$ 125,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF      | Kamelia Jalilvand, Esq.<br>Jalilvand Law Corporation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY     | LaTasha N. Corry, Esq.<br>Deputy County Counsel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| NATURE OF CASE              | <p>On January 19, 2021, Plaintiff was traveling on Colorado Avenue in the City of Los Angeles when a Department employee pulled out of a shopping center driveway into oncoming traffic and collided with the front left driver-side of Plaintiff's vehicle.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p> |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 184,891                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE         | \$ 61,194                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of incident/event:                              | January 19, 2021, 3:30 p.m..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Briefly provide a description of the incident/event: | <p>On January 19, 2021, at approximately 3:30 p.m., The COLA driver, an Environmental Health Specialist III, was exiting a shopping center parking lot along Colorado Boulevard and waiting to merge into heavy oncoming traffic. As another driver was traveling down Colorado Boulevard, the COLA driver suddenly pulled out of the driveway into the path of oncoming vehicles. The other driver was unable to stop in time, resulting in a collision between the front right bumper of their vehicle and the front left bumper of the COLA driver's vehicle.</p> <p>The COLA driver states that Colorado Boulevard consisted of two lanes with heavy traffic, which required him to wait an extended period before attempting to turn. According to the COLA driver, a driver in the right lane, closest to the curb, signaled for him to proceed. As he cautiously entered the second lane, adjacent to that vehicle, he was suddenly struck by another vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed.</p> |

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

The COLA driver failed to ensure sufficient clearance by not observing surrounding vehicles before entering the lane.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- The Vehicle Accident Review Committee (VARC) reviewed the collision report and determined that it was preventable, due to the employee's failure to observe and lack of forethought; however, no further action was deemed necessary other than requiring the employee to complete the Defensive Driving Online training;
- The employee was notified of VARC's decision;
- Employee completed the on-line Defensive Driver training.  
The on-line training course included the following topics:
  - Comprehensive understanding of the expectations and tools for defensive driving; and
  - Critical skills/information for sound judgment, common sense, and courtesy while emphasizing and highlighting the priority of proactive incident avoidance.
- The collision was referred to DPH Human Resources for their assessment of appropriate disciplinary action.
- Appropriate administrative action was taken by HR.

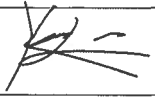


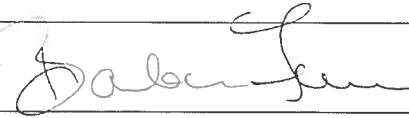
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3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

☐ Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.

☒ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

|                                                                                              |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)<br>Kevin Lee                                             |                   |
| Signature:  | Date:<br>8/6/2025 |

|                                                                                              |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Name: (Department Head)<br>Dr. Barbara Ferrer                                                |                  |
| Signature:  | Date:<br>8/11/25 |

|                                                                                                             |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>                                    |                    |
| Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?                               |                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability. |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.                 |                    |
| Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)<br>Betty Karmirlian                                               |                    |
| Signature:               | Date:<br>8/13/2025 |

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CASE NAME                   | Alexxa Cardoza, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| CASE NUMBER                 | 24PSCV00583                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| COURT                       | Los Angeles Superior Court                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DATE FILED                  | May 6, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT           | Chief Executive Office                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT  | \$ 85,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF      | FERNANDO D. VARGAS, ESQ..<br>Law Offices of Fernando D. Vargas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY     | KEVIN ENGELIEN, ESQ..<br>Senior Deputy County Counsel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| NATURE OF CASE              | This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on May 6, 2023. Plaintiffs claim they suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted. |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 21,186                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE         | \$ 22,247                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CASE NAME                   | Maria Escobedo Preciado, et. al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et. al.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| CASE NUMBER                 | 24CHCV02751                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| COURT                       | Chatsworth Courthouse                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| DATE FILED                  | July 20, 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT           | Department of Parks and Recreation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT  | \$ 38,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF      | IGOR FRADKIN, ESQ.<br>Downtown LA Law Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY     | NENA VUONG, ESQ.<br>Deputy County Counsel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| NATURE OF CASE              | <p>On November 18, 2023, employee Alma Lileana Arce (Arce) was involved in a vehicle accident with Plaintiffs Maria Escobedo Preciado and Ilda Cervantes Preciado. Arce was driving her vehicle on the Rye Canyon Road on-ramp to southbound interstate 5 freeway when her vehicle began to slide out of control and spin. Arce's vehicle entered the freeway and struck Plaintiffs' vehicle on the front passenger side in the number three lane. Arce's vehicle then struck a second vehicle. Plaintiffs' vehicle was traveling at approximately 55 mph at the time of the collision. It was raining at the time.</p> <p>Given that liability against the County is undisputed and risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$38,000 is warranted.</p> |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 27,873                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE         | \$ 2,678                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CASE NAME                   | Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment v. County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works                                                                                                                                          |
| CASE NUMBER                 | 25STCP00169                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| COURT                       | Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| DATE FILED                  | January 17, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT           | County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT  | \$ \$97,500                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF      | Jamie T. Hall, Esq.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY     | Lauren E. Dods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| NATURE OF CASE              | Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment's lawsuit alleges that the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works' analysis of the Project's environmental impacts failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 61,064                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE         | \$ 1,002                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CASE NAME                   | Alvarez, Monique, et la. vs. Prologis, Inc., et al.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| CASE NUMBER                 | 21STCV38929                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| COURT                       | Los Angeles Superior Court                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| DATE FILED                  | October 21, 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT           | Los Angeles County Flood Control District                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT  | \$ 6,000,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF      | Paul R. Kiesel<br>KIESEL LAW LLP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY     | Warren Wellen, Principal Deputy County Counsel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| NATURE OF CASE              | This matter involves more than 60 related mass tort actions filed by more than 24,000 plaintiffs against a number of individuals, corporations, and certain government entities, including the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (FCD). The claims against the County and FCD are for dangerous condition of public property and inverse condemnation. Plaintiffs allege property damage and personal injuries as a result of noxious odors from the Dominguez Channel (Channel), an estuary owned and operated by the FCD following a fire that occurred at an industrial warehouse in Carson that improperly stored massive amounts of "hand sanitizer" containing toxic chemicals outdoors. Plaintiffs allege that the toxic chemicals entered the storm drain system, and the Channel, where the toxic chemicals caused biological processes resulting in a weeks-long, massive, noxious odor event. |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 6,100,532                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE         | \$ 1,175,528                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CASE NAME                   | The Estate of "CMW," et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| CASE NUMBER                 | 2:24-cv-00889                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| COURT                       | United States District Court                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DATE FILED                  | December 22, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| COUNTY DEPARTMENT           | Department of Children and Family Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT  | \$ 500,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF      | MICHAEL J. CURLS, ESQ.<br>Law Offices of Michael J. Curls                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY     | ANDRIA SEO<br>Deputy County Counsel<br><br>AVI BURKWITZ, ESQ.<br>Peterson, Bradford, Burkwitz, Gregorio, Burkwitz & Su, LLP                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| NATURE OF CASE              | Plaintiffs allege negligence, breach of mandatory duties, and violations of their civil rights against the Department of Children and Family Services, resulting in the death of a minor.<br><br>Due to the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. |
| PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE | \$ 42,451                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PAID COSTS, TO DATE         | \$ 1,303                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of incident/event:                              | November 13, 2022 – January 12, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Briefly provide a description of the incident/event: | On November 23, 2022, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) detained child CMW without a warrant or exigent circumstances and placed him with a resource parent already caring for two children under the age of three. On January 12, 2023, while in this home, CMW died of accidental asphyxiation due to unsafe sleeping conditions. |

1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

- A. The investigating Emergency Response (ER) Children's Social Worker (CSW) placed a hospital hold on CMW without conducting an adequate assessment for exigency; given CMW's tentative discharge date, there would have been sufficient time to seek a removal order.
- B. The investigating ER CSW did not make contact with maternal grandmother during the investigation; neither did the Continuing Services CSW upon receipt of the case, which was not in line with DCFS policy and Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §309.
- C. It is not documented if the ER CSW evaluated the resource parent's home and/or placement capacity prior to placing CMW, or what information the Assistant Regional Administrator (ARA) knew about the resource parent's home composition or placement capacity prior to authorizing CMW's placement. Alternate placements might have been explored if it was known that the identified resource parent already had two children under the age of three in her care.
- D. On December 29, 2022, following the resource parent's disclosure that she and her family members tested positive for COVID-19, the CS CSW conducted a virtual visit with CMW and did not make the required monthly in-person contact.
- E. The resource parent did not create a safe sleeping environment when putting CMW to sleep on January 11, 2023. She placed him on his side on a pillow in a bassinet crowded with multiple items, including several milk bottles, baby lotion, and baby powder.
- F. The Child Protection Hotline (CPH) CSW erroneously determined that the report made to CPH on January 12, 2023, regarding the death of CMW did not warrant an in-person investigation.
- G. The Resource Family Approval CSW who approved the resource parent's home did not clearly document what was reviewed, considered, assessed, and/or determined as part of her evaluation of the resource parent's child welfare history. Based on what is recorded, it is

unknown what the CSW knew and what was addressed with the resource parent prior to the approval of her home.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:  
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

**A. 1. Warrant Refresher Training**

The ER CSW is no longer under the employ of DCFS, but the ER Supervising Children's Social Worker (now Assistant Regional Administrator) completed the Warrant Refresher Training on October 3, 2025.

**2. Detention Review Analysis (DRA)**

As part of County Counsel's DRA program, when County Counsel becomes aware that a detention has not been conducted in accordance with DCFS removal policies, they are available to facilitate in-person briefings with the assigned CSWs, SCSWs, and ARAs to review the detention report and cover specific warrant-related issues. As a group, the attendees discuss what details could have been included to convey legally sufficient or critical information and engage in fact-specific discourse to spot safety factors, risk issues, and whether obtaining a warrant would have been feasible under the circumstances. County Counsels also discuss civil liability and provide the CSWs, SCSWs, and ARAs with additional training materials, including risk assessment flowcharts and a warrant related Frequently Asked Questions memorandum.

Moving forward, the DCFS Office of Litigation Management will refer workers, supervisors, and managers involved in warrant/removal related civil actions to the DRA program for individualized training and consult with County Counsel.

**B. 1. Identifying and Contacting Relatives Policy Updates**

The Department recently revised two policies to reinforce the practice of relative search and engagement.

On August 7, 2025, DCFS issued policy entitled Family Finding and Engagement Program (0080-507.22), indicating that all children who meet the criteria for the Upfront Family Finding (UFF) Program must be referred to UFF by the detaining CSW within three but no later than 14 business days of detention. Children detained on a hospital hold; children detained and placed with relatives and/or NREFMs; children detained at-large; and children placed in foster care must be referred.

On August 13, 2025, DCFS issued policy entitled Identifying and Notifying the Court of Recurring Efforts to Locate Relatives and Nonrelative Extended Family Members (NREFMs) (0300-508.30), which now includes language regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 2929. Per AB 2929, social workers must include descriptions of all efforts to identify and locate family members in court reports, for the court to determine at every hearing whether social workers have continued to make appropriate efforts to locate and contact all relatives and NREFMs.



**C. 1. Placement Capacity Approvals Procedure Revision**

The Department is presently evaluating data to determine if this was an isolated incident, or whether there is a broader practice issue related to ARAs providing little or no documentation for their basis in approving placement capacity increases and/or exemptions. Notwithstanding, the Department management will provide the involved ARA with coaching and stress the importance of policy compliance and promotion of best practices. The Department will also work with its Information Technology Services Bureau to enhance the Foster Care Search System with technical safeguards so that all requisite factors are considered, evaluated, and recorded before placements/replacements can be pursued and finalized.

**2. Placement Capacity Approvals Policy Update**

On April 14, 2023, DCFS policy Placement Capacity (0100-510.10) was updated and now reflects that once placement is selected, the placing CSW must identify and list in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) Contact Notebook the names of all children age birth to 18 living in the home.

**D. 1. California Department of Social Services (CDSS) All County Letter (ACL) 21-80**

On September 7, 2021, the DCFS Policy Institute issued correspondence via email to all Department staff alerting them of CDSS's ACL 21-80 and its impact on the previous COVID-19 related exemptions, waivers, and changes. The message expressly indicated waivers and flexibilities for monthly caseworker visitation were effective through July 31, 2021, and that all existing statutory, regulatory, and written guidance were reinstated thereafter, "without exception." It further listed the ACLs that ACL 21-80 superseded, which until July 31, 2021, allowed for caseworker visits to be accomplished through videoconferencing rather than in-person, on a case-by-case basis.

On September 22, 2025, Department management issued communication citing ACL 21-80 and reiterated to all staff that COVID-19 related waivers and flexibilities were revoked in July 2021.

**E. 1. RFA Rescission of Resource Parent**

On January 24, 2023, RFSD placed a hold on the resource parent's home, blocking the future placement of any children under her care.

On or about April 27, 2023, the Department issued a Notice of Action to the resource parent indicating her home approval was rescinded as a result of her failure to provide satisfactory evidence of compliance with all Resource Family Approval requirements.

**2. Safe Sleeping Practices for Infants**

The Department understands the importance of safe sleeping practices and has been on a decade-long campaign to share information and tips on safe sleeping. In July 2018, the Policy Institute issued a For Your Information bulletin titled "Safe Sleeping Practices for Infants" for its staff, to equip them with critical knowledge for sharing with parents and caregivers alike. More recently, the Department's Continuous Quality Improvement Department has been sharing pertinent information with the DCFS workforce through its work on/with Young Children in Care. In addition, on October 14, 2025, the Department updated and reissued its Lessons Learned bulletin on Safe Sleeping Practices for Infants, stressing the importance of promoting safe sleeping practices. Regional Administrators (RAs) and Division Chiefs (DCs) were also provided with a "Safe Sleep Saves Lives" flyer for distribution to field staff, families, and other members of the public.

**F. 1. Hotline Tools Foundation Training**

The Department is developing a training module to review, reinforce, and support core CPH policies, protocols, and practices. The rollout will follow immediately after module finalization.

**G. 1. Child Welfare History Review in Resource Family Approval Process**

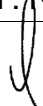
The Resource Family and Approval Division (RFAD) will provide written instructions to RFA CSWs on what to document when it comes to child welfare history searches. The instructions will cover what the searches yielded; what concerns there were (if any); what rehabilitative or mitigating factors were considered; and what the ultimate decision was with respect to evaluation and approval. The RFAD will also develop oversight measures to ensure fidelity to the documentation plan.

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

☒ Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.

☐ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

|                                                                                              |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)                                                          |                   |
| Veronica Pawlowski                                                                           |                   |
| Signature:  | Date:<br>12/31/25 |

|                                                                                              |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name: (Department Head)                                                                      |                   |
| Brandon T. Nichols                                                                           |                   |
| Signature:  | Date:<br>01/02/26 |

**Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY**

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.

☒ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

|                                                                                                |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)                                                      |                 |
| Betty Karmirlian                                                                               |                 |
| Signature:  | Date:<br>1/6/26 |

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

January 5, 2026

#### 1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:35 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, and Claims Board Administrator Laura Z. Salazar participating in person at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012. Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers was absent.

All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Michael J. Gordon, Joseph A. Langton, Melissa McCaverty, Caroline Craddock, Edward Morrissey, Minas Samuelian, Latasha N. Corry, Christopher Keosian, and Vanessa Evangelista appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Sergeant Shanese E. Winfrey, Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Lieutenant Jennifer M. Roth, Captain Daniel W. Martin, Captain Dustin Carr, Captain Chris M. Kusayanagi, Captain Shawnee Hinchman, Captain Brian P. Jones, Lieutenant James M. Eggers, Deputy Matthew C. Webster, Stephanie Lara, and Division Director Conrad Meredith appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Chereise Martin appeared for the Probation Department. Aaron Nevarez appeared for the Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. Jacklin Injijian, Ronald Castaneda, and Fady Khalil appeared for the Department of Public Works. Arun Patel, Roberto Avitia, Dawn Monique Abarca, and Sean Henderson appeared for the Department of Health Services. Charlie Lo appeared for Department of Medical Examiner. Julie Dixon Silva appeared for the Office of the District Attorney. Ali Ziai appeared for Lawrence, Beach, Allen & Choi. David J. Weiss, and Nick Weiss appeared for David Weiss Law. Angela Powell appeared for Jones & Mayer, LLP. Kelly Ward appeared for Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper, LLP. Geoffrey S. Sheldon appeared for Liebert Cassidy Whitmore. Andrew Baum and Thomas Barajas appeared for Glaser Weil, LLP.

#### 2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

No member of the public appeared in person or on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

#### 3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

At 9:36 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(j).

#### 4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

On the public teleconference phone line, a caller who self-identified as "Mark Wagner" was present to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 12:23 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via video conference and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

*[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]*

**a. Steve Medina v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV20858**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in an altercation with a Probation Department employee serving as a poll-worker.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$100,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

**b. Non-Litigated Claims of Mary Borillo, Aiza Aloria, and Mary Aloria**

These inverse condemnation claims against the Department of Public Works contend that Claimants' property was damaged by sewage backflow due to a mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(b) in the amount of \$76,195.52.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

**c. Pauline Der Mesrobian Yacoubian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV02775**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff sustained injuries when she tripped and fell on an uneven dirt sidewalk in unincorporated Altadena.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$55,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

**d. Tomas Lara Xochitla v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV16326**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(d) in the amount of \$98,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

e. **Estate of Amanda Bews, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-09775 and**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24CMCV00666**

These federal and state wrongful death lawsuits stem from the death of an inmate and allege negligence and failure to summon medical care.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$400,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

f. **Melba Ortega v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-03687**

This lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was subjected to disability discrimination, excessive force, and unlawful arrest.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$485,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

g. **Gabriela Koutantos, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-08592**

This lawsuit alleges excessive force, unreasonable search, and seizure arising out of a traffic stop conducted by Sheriff's Department deputies.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(g) in the amount of \$900,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

h. **Valeria Guaman, a minor, et al. v. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV36635**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(h) in the amount of \$690,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

i. **Ana Gamez and Jung Kim v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV21176**

This lawsuit involves allegations that employees of the Sheriff's Department were subjected to discrimination and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(i) in the amount of \$2,400,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

j. **Jodi Michelle Link v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV12873**

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the District Attorney's Office was subjected to retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(j) in the amount of \$850,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the December 15, 2025, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez  
Absent: Adrienne M. Byers

6. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By

  
Laura Z. Salazar  
Claims Board Administrator  
Office of the County Counsel